

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 017555

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL TEL SENT ACTION AMMAN TEHRAN JIDDA ABU DHABI BELGRADE
BUCHAREST BONN KUWAIT KHARTOUM LONDON MUSCAT PARIS RABAT
SANA MANAMA TUNIS USNATO INFO SECSTATE CAIRO TEL AVIV DAMASCUS
BEIRUT JERUSALEM ALGIERS MOSCOW FROM USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT
DTD 21 JAN 1978 QTE

S E C R E T SECTO 01074

E X D I S

ALEM FOR ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS:

SUBJECT: STATUS AND PROSPECTS FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: SECTO 01045

1. FOLLOWING IS A REPORT ON THE SECRETARY'S THURSDAY MEET-
INGS IN JERUSALEM FOLLOWING EGYPTIAN DEPARTURE, MEETING WITH SADAT

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ON FRIDAY, TOGETHER WITH ASSESSMENT OF STATUS, PROSPECTS AND NEXT
STEPS IN NEGOTIATION PROCESS. YOU MAY DRAW ON IT AS APPROPRIATE
FOR BRIEFING HIGH LEVELS OF HOST GOVERNMENTS.

2. FOLLOWING DEPARTURE OF EGYPTIAN DELEGATION WEDNESDAY EVENING,
SECRETARY MET THURSDAY WITH BEGIN AND DAYAN. THEY MADE SOME
FURTHER PROGRESS IN REFINING LANGUAGE OF DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

AND NARROWING DIFFERENCES ON CRUCIAL PALESTINIAN ASPECTS OF DECLARATION, AND OF COURSE NONE OF THE DRAFTING DONE IN JERUSALEM HAS FORMAL APPROVAL OF EITHER GOVERNMENT.

3. IN CAIRO ON FRIDAY, SADAT EXPLAINED HIS CUMULATIVE DISILLUSIONMENT WITH ISRAELI APPROACH TO NEGOTIATION AND WITH ISRAELI PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF PRECEDING SEVERAL DAYS. SADAT WAS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED BY ISRAELI CONTINUED INSISTENCE ON RETAINING SETTLEMENTS UNDER ISRAELI PROTECTION IN OCCUPIED TERRITORY BECAUSE HE FEELS THEY PUT IN QUESTION WHETHER ISRAEL'S OFFER TO RETURN TO SINAI TO EGYPTIAN SOVEREIGNTY IS GENUINE. HE REPEATEDLY DECLARED, "THEY CANNOT TREAD ON OTHER PEOPLE'S LAND AND SOVEREIGNTY." HE MADE CLEAR HIS PURPOSE IS STILL COMPREHENSIVE PEACE AGREEMENT. HE IS PREPARED TO CONTINUE WORKING FOR A DECLARATION WHICH WILL GET ISRAELI ADHERENCE TO PRINCIPLES THAT WOULD PERMIT BROADENING OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. WE EXPLAINED PROGRESS MADE WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY WITH BEGIN AND DAYAN ON DRAFT DECLARATION. SADAT AGREES THERE SHOULD BE A RHETORICAL COOLING-OFF PERIOD, ALTHOUGH HE FEELS NEED TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT AS HE SEES IT IN SPEECH TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. HE IS READY TO GO FORWARD WITH SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING, AND WE ARE URGING ISRAEL TO CONTINUE WITH THE WORK OF THAT COMMITTEE. HE HAS REITERATED THAT DOOR IS STILL OPEN FOR PEACE.

4. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT, WHILE RECENT HIGH LEVEL OF HARSH RHETORIC AND INTERRUPTION OF JERUSALEM TALKS ARE UNFORTUNATE,
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DAMAGE IS NOT IRREPARABLE. WE BELIEVE PROGRESS CAN BE ACHIEVED IN FURTHER NARROWING GAPS ON DECLARATION LANGUAGE AND THAT MILITARY COMMITTEE COULD BE USEFUL IN GETTING PARTIES BACK INTO CONSTRUCTIVE NEGOTIATING ATMOSPHERE. ATHERTON RETURNING TO JERUSALEM AND WILL REMAIN IN AREA TO ACT AS APPROPRIATE IN HELPING TO KEEP PEACE PROCESS GOING.

5. WE URGE THAT EVERYONE AVOID FURTHER AGGRAVATING SITUATION AND AVOID LIKEWISE PREMATURE JUDGMENT ON RESULTS OF THIS PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD BROADER NEGOTIATIONS AND TOWARD COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT.

6. FYI. THERE ARE NO REPEAT NO PLANS FOR PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL SUMMIT, CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS, NOR SPECIFIC PLANS FOR A RETURN VISIT BY SECRETARY AT THIS TIME. END FYI.

7. FOR AMBASSADORS WEST AND PICKERING ONLY: YOU MAY TELL FAHD AND HUSSEIN MORE SPECIFICALLY THAT SADAT DID EXPRESS ENCOURAGEMENT AT PROGRESS MADE ON DRAFT DECLARATION IN JERUSALEM AND, WHILE HE STILL WANTED TO TALK FURTHER WITH HIS ADVISORS, HE IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH US CONCRETE WAYS FOR BUILDING ON WORK ALREADY DONE SO AS TO REGAIN MOMENTUM. WE HAVE AGREED THAT WHAT-

EVER IS TO BE DONE NEXT, IT SHOULD BE DONE THROUGH QUIET DIPLOMACY
AT FIRST. THAT IS THE REAL REASON ATHERTON IS STAYING IN THE
AREA, BUT WE DO NOT WANT TO CALL ATTENTION TO HIS ACTIVITIES.
VAF.
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